

FCC MAIL SECTION

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
JAN 13 8 37 AM '93  
Washington, D.C. 20554DISPATCHED  
MM Docket No. 92-311 ✓

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.202(b), RM-8132  
Table of Allotments,  
FM Broadcast Stations.  
(Iron River, Wisconsin)

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: December 11, 1992; Released: January 12, 1993

Comment Date: March 4, 1993

Reply Comment Date: March 19, 1993

By the Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. The Commission considers herein the petition for rule making filed by James V. Lien, Norma G. Lien and Lenard G. Harvey ("petitioner") requesting the allotment of Channel 297C2 to Iron River, Wisconsin, as that community's first local transmission service.<sup>1</sup> Petitioner stated an intention to apply for the channel, if allotted.<sup>2</sup>

2. Petitioner did not submit any information regarding Iron River's status as a community. Section 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, requires that the Commission allot channels "... among the several States and communities." The Commission has defined "communities" as geographically identifiable population groupings. Generally, if a community is incorporated or listed in the U.S. Census, that is sufficient to satisfy its status. Absent such recognizable community factors, the petitioner must present the Commission with sufficient information to demonstrate that such a place has social, economic, or cultural indicia to qualify it as a community for allotment purposes. *See, e.g., Oak Grove, FL*, 5 FCC Rcd 3774 (1990); *Hannibal, OH*, 5 FCC Rcd 3315 (1990); and *Statenville*,

*GA*, 5 FCC Rcd 2685 (1990). Although Iron River is attributed with a population of 900 persons by the 1990 U.S. Census, we may find that a population grouping does not constitute a community for allotment purposes where the community may be devoid of the customary factors associated with determining community status, such as a library, schools, shopping centers, churches, a newspaper, and social or civic organizations. *See, e.g., Searles Valley, CA*, 3 FCC Rcd 5221 (1988); *see also, Naples, FL*, 41 RR 2d 1549 (1977). Therefore, petitioner is requested to submit information regarding Iron River to demonstrate whether it has any commercial establishments, social, economic, cultural or religious organizations, municipal services, or governmental units that identify themselves specifically with that locality.

3. A staff review of the proposal reveals that Channel 297C2 can be allotted to Iron River, Wisconsin, consistent with the minimum distance separation requirements of the Commission's Rules with a site restriction 12.3 kilometers (7.7 miles) east of the community.<sup>3</sup> The site restriction will prevent a short spacing to a proposal to add Channel 296C3 to Moose Lake, Minnesota, in MM Docket 92-220. *See 7 FCC Rcd 6372* (1992). Since Iron River is located within 320 kilometers (200 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border, concurrence of the Canadian government will be requested for this allotment.

4. We believe the public interest would be served by proposing the allotment of Channel 297C2 to Iron River, Wisconsin, in the event it is ultimately found to qualify as a community for allotment purposes. Therefore, we will seek comments on the proposed amendment to the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, with respect to Iron River, as follows:

City	Present	Channel No.	
		Proposed	
Iron River, Wisconsin	---		297C2

5. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

<sup>1</sup> Petitioner requested the allotment of Channel 299C2 to Iron River. To avoid a short spacing to a proposal to allot Channel 299A to Proctor, Minnesota, (MM Docket No. 92-249), we have instead proposed Channel 297C2.

Petitioner also requested that it receive a "Pioneer's Preference" for proposing this allotment. The Commission has requested comments on adoption of a "Finder's Preference" to be awarded to petitioners that have taken the initiative and burden of introducing a new FM service to a community. *See Reexamination of the Policy Statement on Comparative Broadcast Hearings* (GC Docket No. 92-52), 7 FCC Rcd 2664 (1992). Since that docket has not been terminated, we will not consider petitioner's request for a preference at the application stage.

<sup>2</sup> Although petitioner's request indicates that the original copy of its proposal was signed, it failed to include an affidavit verifying that the statements contained in its petition were

accurate to the best of its knowledge. Section 1.52 of the Commission's Rules requires that the original of any document filed with the Commission by a party not represented by counsel shall be signed and verified by the party and his/her address stated. In the absence of such verification, the petition may be dismissed. Section 1.402(b) of the Commission's Rules concerning rule making proceedings places petitioners on notice that their proposal must conform with the requirements of Section 1.52 regarding subscription and verification. *See also Amendment of Sections 1.420 and 73.3584 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Abuses of the Commission's Processes*, 5 FCC Rcd 3910, n.41 (1990). Petitioner is requested to rectify this omission in its comments.

<sup>3</sup> The coordinates for Channel 297C2 at Iron River are 46-35-19 and 91-14-44.

6. Interested parties may file comments on or before **March 4, 1993**, and reply comments on or before **March 19, 1993**, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioners, as follows:

James V. Lien  
Norma G. Lien  
Lenard G. Harvey  
P.O. Box 10  
Iron River, Wisconsin 54847

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules. See *Certification that Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules*, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

8. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Kathleen Scheuerle, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 634-6530. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

#### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Michael C. Ruger  
Chief, Allocations Branch  
Policy and Rules Division  
Mass Media Bureau

#### APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r) and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Com-

mission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. *Showings Required.* Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. *Cut-off Procedures.* The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules.)

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposal(s) in this *Notice*, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. *Comments and Reply Comments; Service.* Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. *Number of Copies.* In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. *Public Inspection of Filings.* All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room at its headquarters, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C.